

In Memoriam.

DR. T. A. McBRIDE.

IN the sudden death of Dr. THOMAS ALEXANDER McBRIDE, not alone has American neurology suffered a serious reduction of its ranks, but each member of our little community of specialists has lost a cherished and warm-hearted friend. There are few to whom it is given to pass through life, as the deceased had done, without provoking a single unfriendly criticism, and still fewer whose loss is felt as keenly by so many.

Dr. McBride was born in 1844, at Sandusky, Ohio. He received a liberal education, taking the degree of Master of Arts, and after completing the usual term of study at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, he graduated in medicine in 1871. He then entered Bellevue Hospital, and commenced the practice of his profession after his hospital term was completed. He was at this time an assistant at the medical clinics of the college from which he had graduated, and early distinguished himself as a thorough and searching investigator in the field of physical diagnosis. He later became the first assistant at the clinic of Dr. Seguin, and after resigning this position he was appointed to the lectureship on clinical medicine at the same school. Through his extensive professional and social connections, Dr. McBride early attained the position of a consulting physician, and during the last years of his life he was one of the most sought for consulting specialists. Among other prominent persons regarding whom his opinion was taken, were the late Samuel J. Tilden, and Secretary of the Treasury Manning.

Dr. McBride united in the happiest way the qualifications of the general clinician and the neurologist. He specially devoted himself to the elucidation of the problems connected with the nervous manifestations of diseases of assimilation, and more particularly to the application of instruments of precision to their study. He was not a prolific writer. He matured his observations slowly, but what he has published will, we believe, prove

valuable when the ballast of neurological literature in the midst of which it appeared buried shall have been disposed of. Among his papers, "The Slow Pulse and Disturbances in the Rhythm of the Pulse," "The Temperature in Uræmia," "The Utility of the Sphygmograph in Medicine," "Auscultatory Percussion," "Coma in Chronic Bright's Disease," and the "Early Diagnosis of Chronic Bright's Disease," are the best known. In addition, he reported a number of interesting cases; among others, a "Case of Hysterical Anuria Cured by Restoring a Lacerated Cervix Uteri," and a "Tumor of the Optic Thalamus Perforating the Corpus Callosum." Several of his papers were contributed to the JOURNAL OF NERVOUS AND MENTAL DISEASE. In 1880 he founded the *American Journal of Neurology and Psychiatry*, which he conducted for three years, and in which he published many of his observations, chiefly in the editorial columns.

Dr. McBride had been aware, for many years, that his kidneys were in a pathological condition. He was afflicted with a gouty predisposition, and the form of his disorder was suspected by himself to be the cirrhotic. In 1878 he contracted a bilious remittent fever, which left his constitution greatly impaired for a time. But he recuperated to all outward appearances, and to all but his most intimate friends the serious state of his health or the occasion of his last trip to Europe was not even suspected. He left Carlsbad, where he had been in the habit for the last three years of passing the summers, in a very low condition of health, and on arriving at Southampton he was seized with uræmic convulsions. Dr. Roosa, a passenger on the same vessel which Dr. McBride had engaged his passage on, was called in to treat him. His friends engaged a nurse and took him on board the North German Lloyd steamer "Aller" on August 28th. Two days later he sank into coma and died August 31st. The distance from New York, the weather, the crowded state of the vessel, and the absence of appropriate caskets and embalming material, rendered it impossible to bring his body home, and it was accordingly committed to the deep. Both his aged parents and a brother survive him.

His kindly and generous disposition to all, his loyalty to his friends, his liberal scientific spirit and unselfish devotion to every thing that seemed true and noble, have enshrined him in the memory of most of us so deeply that we may say, even in this fast-living age, he cannot be replaced, and will not be forgotten.

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